

CHARTER

OF THE

London Institution,



UNDER THE

GREAT SEAL

OF

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

DATED 21st JANUARY, 1807.

LONDON:

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1807.

*GEORGE THE THIRD, by the Grace of
GOD, of the United Kingdom of GREAT
BRITAIN and IRELAND, King, Defender
of the Faith: TO ALL to whom these
presents shall come, Greeting.*

WHEREAS several of our loving subjects are desirous of forming an Institution, to promote the diffusion of Science, Literature, and the Arts, by the means of Lectures and Experiments, and by an easy access to an extensive collection of books, both ancient and modern, in all languages; and, having subscribed considerable sums of money as a fund for that purpose, have committed the present management to our trusty and well-beloved Sir Francis Baring,

Baronet, John Julius Angerstein, Esq. Thomas Baring, Esq. M.P. Thomas Bodley, Esq. Richard Clark, Esq. F.A.S. and Chamberlain of our City of London, Harvey Christian Combe, Esq. M.P. and one of the Aldermen of the said City, Benjamin Harrison, Esq. F.A.S. George Hibbert, Esq. F.L.S. and M.P. Henry Hoare, Esq. F.L.S. Sir Hugh Inglis, Bart. Beeston Long, Esq. Governor of the Bank of England, William Manning, Esq. M.P. William Hasledine Pepys, Esq. Sir Charles Price, Bart. and one of the Aldermen of our said City, Job Mathew Raikes, Esq. Matthew Raime, D.D. F.R.S. and F.A.S. John Rennie, Esq. F.R.S. F.A.S. and M.R.S.E. Richard Sharp, Esq. F.R.S. F.A.S. and M.P. John Smith, Esq. M.P. Henry Thornton, Esq. M.P. Robert Wigram, Esq. F.R.S. F.A.S. M.R.I.A. and M.P. and Samuel Woods, Esq.

AND WHEREAS the said Sir Francis Baring, John Julius Angerstein, Thomas

Baring, Thomas Bodley, Richard Clark, Harvey Christian Combe, Benjamin Harrison, George Hibbert, Henry Hoare, Sir Hugh Inglis, Beeston Long, William Manning, William Hasledine Pepys, Sir Charles Price, Job Mathew Raikes, Matthew Raine, John Rennie, Richard Sharp, John Smith, Henry Thornton, Robert Wigram, and Samuel Woods have, at the request and by the direction of the said other Subscribers, humbly besought us to grant to those who have already subscribed to the said Institution, and been elected and accepted Proprietors of the same, and those who shall hereafter subscribe to and be elected and accepted Proprietors thereof, our Royal Charter of Incorporation for the purposes aforesaid.

Now KNOW YE, that WE, being desirous of encouraging whatever has a tendency to encrease the industry and happiness of our loving subjects, and knowing how much those objects are likely to be encreased, by the advancement of literature and the diffu-

sion of useful knowledge among them, Have of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, willed, ordained, constituted, declared, given and granted, and we do by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, will, ordain, constitute, declare, give and grant, that our said trusty and well-beloved subjects, the said Sir Francis Baring, John Julius Angerstein, Thomas Baring, Thomas Bodley, Richard Clark, Harvey Christian Combe, Benjamin Harrison, George Hibbert, Henry Hoare, Sir Hugh Inglis, Beeston Long, William Manning, William Hasledine Pepys, Sir Charles Price, Job Mathew Raikes, Matthew Raine, John Rennie, Richard Sharp, John Smith, Henry Thornton, Robert Wigram, and Samuel Woods, and all others, who have already subscribed to the said Fund, and have been elected and accepted Proprietors of the same, and such other persons, as shall from time to time hereafter be elected and accepted Proprietors thereof, and their respective successors, shall hereafter be, by virtue of these presents, one

body politic, by the name of the "LONDON
 "INSTITUTION, *for the Advancement of*
"Literature and the Diffusion of useful
"Knowledge."

AND we do will, constitute, and declare them and their successors to be one body politic and corporate, for the purposes aforesaid, and by the name aforesaid, to have perpetual succession, and to have a common seal, with full power and authority to alter, vary, break, and renew the same, at their discretion ; and by the same name, to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and answer and be answered unto, in every court of us, our heirs, and successors.

AND WE DO WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that the said proprietors and their successors, shall be for ever able and capable in the law, to purchase, receive, possess, and enjoy, to them and their successors, any goods and chattels whatsoever ; and also be able and capable in the law (notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain), to take, pur-

chase, possess, hold, and enjoy, to them and their successors, a hall, college, and any messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever.

BUT Our will and pleasure is, that the hall or college of the said Society shall be situated within the city of London or its liberties, and that the yearly value of the said hall, college, messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, shall not exceed in the whole, the sum of £2000, computing the same respectively at the rack rent, which might have been had or gotten for the same respectively, at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof.

AND we do hereby also will, constitute, and grant, that the said proprietors may, by the name aforesaid, act in all the concerns of the said Corporation as fully and effectually, to all intents, effects, constructions, and purposes whatsoever, as any other of our liege subjects, or any other body politic or corporate, in our United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Ireland, not being under any disability, might do in their own respective concerns. AND we declare it to be our Royal Will and Pleasure, that the said Institution shall not be subject to the controul, power, or jurisdiction of our City of London, or any corporation, guild, or fraternity within the same; and that no member of the said Institution shall, in virtue thereof, be entitled to any franchise belonging to the freemen of our said city, or to the freemen of any guild or fraternity within the same, or the liberties thereof.

AND we do hereby constitute and grant, that there shall be a President, four Vice-Presidents, twenty Managers, and a Secretary, of the said Institution.

THAT one Vice-President and five Managers, as they stand first upon the list, shall annually vacate their office.

THAT it shall be the duty of the President to preside at the general meetings of

the Proprietors, and at all the meetings of the Managers, at which he shall be present.

THAT it shall be the duty of one of the Vice-Presidents to preside at the general meetings, and the meetings of Managers, at which the President shall not be present.

THAT it shall be the duty of one of the Managers to preside at the general meetings, and the meetings of the Managers, at which neither the President nor any one of the Vice-Presidents shall be present.

THAT, the President, Vice-Presidents, Managers, and Secretary, shall form the Committee of management.

THAT it shall be the duty of the President, Vice-Presidents, Managers, and Secretary, to frame such By-Laws, for the government of the Institution, not inconsistent with the general scope and true intent and meaning of this our Charter, nor in any way

contrary to the laws of our land, as they shall think fit, and to propose the same to a general meeting of Proprietors ; and such general meeting shall and may adopt or reject the same, as they shall see fit.

THAT the Managers shall use their best endeavours to form an extensive library, and to procure courses of lectures to be given on experimental philosophy, chemistry, and the various branches of literature, science, and art, which they shall think likely to advance the objects of the institution : taking particular care, that the lectures treat of nothing foreign to or unconnected with those objects.

THAT it also shall be their duty to elect and admit Proprietors, Subscribers, and Honorary Members of the Institution ; and to appoint, and, as they shall see occasion, to remove or change the Assistant Secretaries, Professors, Lecturers, Librarians, and other officers ; to direct the hall, college,

house, or houses, of the Institution ; to make regulations for the preservation of order and decorum in the same ; and to cause fair and accurate accounts and minutes in writing to be made and kept of the receipts, payments, and other transactions of themselves, their officers, and agents,

AND THAT, subject to the superintendence and control of the general meetings of the Proprietors, all the concerns of the Institution shall, in every respect and for every purpose, be directed, governed, and ordered, by the committee of management.

THAT not less than five of the committee of management shall be a quorum, to act in the concerns hereby entrusted to them.

THAT it shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend the general meetings of the Proprietors, and the meetings of the committee of management, to take down in writing, and enter in proper minute-books,

a minute of the proceedings of the said meetings; to direct the assistant Secretaries and Clerks, in every thing relating to the business of their respective offices; and to see that due notice be given of the general meetings of the Proprietors, and of the meetings of the committee of management.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that the President, Vice-Presidents, Managers, and Secretary, shall be annually chosen, as hereinafter mentioned, but that the said Sir Francis Baring shall be president of the Institution, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the General Meeting of the Proprietors of the said Institution in April next, and from thenceforth until another person shall be chosen in his room; that Sir Richard Neave, Baronet, F.R.S. & F.A.S. shall be the Vice-President of the said Institution, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for three

years; the said Beeston Long, Vice-President of the same, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for two years; the said George Hibbert, Vice-President, of the same, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for one year; and the said John Julius Angerstein, Vice-President of the same, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth until another person shall be chosen in his room. That the said Richard Clark, the said Matthew Raine, the said Richard Sharp, the said John Smith, and the said Henry Thornton, shall be the Managers of the said Institution, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for three years; Jeremiah Harman, Esq. the said Benjamin Harrison, the said William Hasledine Pepys,

the said John Rennie, and the said Robert Wigram, Managers of the same, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for two years ; the said Thomas Bodley, Charles Bosanquet, Esq. John Peter Hankey, Esq. one of the Aldermen of our said City of London, Joseph Huddart, Esq. F.R.S. and the said Job Mathew Raikes, Managers of the same, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for one year ; and the said Thomas Baring, Samuel Boddington, Esq. Nathaniel Bogle French, Esq. William Henry Hoare, Esq. and Abraham Wilday Robarts, Esq. Managers of the same, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth until other persons shall be chosen in their room.

AND that the said Samuel Woods be the present Secretary of the said Institution.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that there shall be a committee of Visitors, to consist of the President and twelve Members, to be elected from among the Proprietors of the Institution ; and that none of the said twelve Visitors shall be of the committee of Managers ; and that any three members of the said committee of Visitors shall be a quorum, competent to act in the concerns hereby entrusted to them.

THAT it shall be the duty of the committee of Visitors, to inspect every department of the Institution, and to report thereupon to the committee of Managers or General Meeting, as they shall think fit.

THAT the first three of the twelve, as they stand on the list, shall annually vacate their office.

THAT the said Henry Hoare, Edward Jenner, M.D. F.R.S. and L.S. and William Saunders, MD. F.R.S. and F.A.S. and Physician in Ordinary to our most dearly beloved Son, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, shall be Visitors, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said first General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for three years; Sir William Blizard, Knt. F.R.S. and F.A.S. the said Sir Charles Price, and James Shaw, Esq. M.P. and one of the Aldermen of our said City, shall be Visitors from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said first meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for two years; Thomson Bonar, Esq. the said Harvey Christian Combe, and the said Sir Hugh Inglis, shall be the Visitors, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the first meeting in April next, and from thenceforth for one year; and Charles Grant, Esq. M.P. Robert Hankey, Esq. and the said William Manning, Visitors, from the day of the date of this our Royal

Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and until others shall be chosen in their room.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that there shall be five Auditors of the Institution, to be chosen from amongst the Proprietors ; and that it shall be their duty to examine the accounts of the Institution, and to see that they are properly made up, and to report thereupon to the annual meeting of Proprietors, and that the Auditors shall be chosen as hereinafter is mentioned.

BUT that Isaack Lyon Goldsmid, Esq. Thomas Hughan, Esq. John Inglis, Esq. Thomas Reid, Esq. and William Salte, Esq. shall be the Auditors, from the day of the date of this our Royal Charter, until the said General Meeting in April next, and from thenceforth until successors shall be appointed in their stead.

THAT there shall be a Treasurer to the said Institution.

THAT Sir William Curtis, Bart. M.P. and also one other of the Aldermen of our said City of London, shall be the present Treasurer of the said Institution.

THAT it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to superintend the accounts of the Institution at their banker's, and to order payment of such drafts as shall be made on the Treasurer by the committee of Managers, and also of such bills and other disbursements, as they shall specially direct to be paid by him, and to make up his accounts to the 31st of December, in every year, and lay them before the Managers.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that on some day in the month of April, in every year, a general meeting shall be held of the Proprietors of the Institution, and that the committee of Managers

shall make a report in writing, and then and there produce to the Proprietors present, a general statement of the matters or things with which it may be necessary, expedient, or desirable, for the Proprietors to be acquainted, in order to form an opinion of the actual state of the Institution, in respect both to its pecuniary concerns, and the accomplishment of its objects; and that the general meeting shall come to such resolutions thereupon as they shall think proper.

THAT at the said general annual meeting, the President, one Vice-President, five Managers, three Visitors, Auditors, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be elected; and that it shall be no objection to the election of any of the said officers, that he held the same or any other office of the Institution, in the preceding or any former year.

PROVIDED always that the general annual meeting shall be competent to proceed to the election of a person or persons, to fill up any vacancy which may have occurred,

by death, resignation, or disqualification, either in the committee of Management or committee of Visitors, and that in case of the decease, resignation, or disqualification, of the President, Treasurer, or Secretary, or of any one or more of the Vice-Presidents, Managers, Visitors, or Auditors, it shall be in the power of the Managers at any time to convene a special general meeting of Proprietors, who may proceed to the election of another person or persons, in his or their stead.

AND that it shall be competent to the said general annual meeting, to take into consideration any thing contained in the report of the Managers, and to come to any resolution upon the same.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that any resolution of the general annual meeting, or a special general meeting, on a subject, which, by the provisions of this our Charter they are authorised to

take into consideration, shall absolutely, and to all intents, effects, constructions, and purposes whatsoever, be binding and conclusive on every member of the Institution.

AND that it shall be lawful for any five or more of the visitors, or any fifteen or more of the proprietors, by letter addressed to the secretary, signed with their names, and expressing the object of the same, to demand a special general meeting;—and, that immediately on the receipt of such letter, the Secretary shall give notice of it to the committee of Managers, and the said committee of Managers shall forthwith convene a special general meeting of the Proprietors, and appoint the same to be held at any time they shall think proper, but not at a less distance than ten, or at a greater than twenty days, from the time the Secretary shall receive the said letter.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that the votes of the Proprietors,

for the election of the officers of the Institution, shall always be given by ballot ; and that other business brought forward at any general meeting of the Proprietors, shall be decided by a majority of Proprietors present, unless a ballot be demanded previously to an adjournment on any specific question, by fifteen or more of the Proprietors present, in which case that specific question shall be decided by ballot.

THAT the ballot may be adjourned to any succeeding day, not more distant than the 5th day from that on which the ballot is required ; but no person shall have liberty of voting by proxy at such ballot.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that it shall be lawful for any general meeting of Proprietors to form By-laws for the government of the Institution, and to repeal and alter any existing By-laws of the same.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, and we declare it to be our will and pleasure, that neither a new By-Law, nor an alteration or repeal of an existing By-Law, shall originate in a general meeting of Proprietors, unless after special notice to the Secretary in writing, by 15 Proprietors or upwards, at least 14 days previous to such general meeting.

AND that neither a new By-Law, nor an alteration or repeal of an existing By-Law shall be proposed by the Managers to the Proprietors, unless approved at a committee of Managers summoned for that special purpose, and unless two-thirds of the Managers present at such committee vote for the same.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that the whole property of the Institution shall be vested, and we do hereby vest the same solely and absolutely in the Proprietors; and that they shall have

full power and authority to sell, alienate, charge, or otherwise dispose of the same, as they shall think proper, but that no sale, mortgage, incumbrance, or other disposition of any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, belonging to the Institution, shall be made, except with the approbation and concurrence of a general meeting of the Proprietors.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that the Proprietors of the said Institution shall make or adopt such resolutions and by-laws, and do all such other acts, as, in respect to the Proprietors of the said Institution, will give the real estates acquired or to be acquired by the said Institution, the nature and transmissible quality of personal estate.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that if any Proprietor shall be desirous of transferring his share in the In-

stitution, such Proprietor shall, by writing, under his hand, signify the same to the committee of Managers, and mention therein the name, residence, and other description, of the person, to whom he is desirous the same should be transferred, and such person (unless he be a legitimate son of such Proprietor, in which case he shall be admitted without delay), shall be balloted for at the next meeting but one of Managers ; and if such person shall be approved of by a majority of the Managers present, the said share shall be thereupon immediately vested in that person ; but if he shall not be approved of, the Proprietor desirous of parting with the same, shall be entitled, at his option, either to propose another person for admission, or to claim from the funds of the Institution such a sum of money as shall then be fixed by the By-Laws of the said Institution for the qualification of a Proprietor, and so toties quoties as such nomination shall be made, and the nominee rejected on a ballot.

AND WE WILL, CONSTITUTE, and GRANT, that, on the decease of any Proprietor of the said Institution, his share shall remain and belong to the Institution, until his will, or the letters of administration of his effects, shall be produced to the Solicitor of the Institution ; and on the production of the same the Solicitor shall report to the committee, who is or are the person or persons legally intitled to the said share, and if there shall be more than one such person, they shall be desired by the Solicitor to agree among themselves who shall represent the deceased, as to his said share ; and if they shall not come to such an agreement, the executors or administrators of the deceased shall be entitled to nominate any one of them as the representative of such deceased Proprietor ; and in case the nominee should be rejected on a ballot, the said executors shall receive from the funds of the Institution, such a sum of money, as shall then be fixed, by their By-Laws for the qualification of a Proprietor, but, if one

person only shall by law, or by agreement among the parties themselves, become entitled to the said share, such proceedings shall be had in his regard, respecting his said share, as are herein before provided and directed to take place in respect to the nominee of any person desiring to part with his share.

AND WE WILL and require that the sum of £20,000, part of the monies subscribed by the Proprietors to the general fund, shall be invested, as soon as conveniently may be in the public funds, as a provision for the permanency and stability of the Institution.

AND WE LASTLY DECLARE it to be our ROYAL WILL and PLEASURE, that no Resolution, or By-Law shall, on any account or pretence whatsoever, be made by the said Institution, in opposition to the general scope, true intent, and meaning of this our Royal Charter, or the laws of our

realm, and that, if any such Rule or By-Law shall be made, the same shall be absolutely null and void to all intents, effects, constructions and purposes whatsoever. IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS OURSELF at Westminster, the
twenty-first day of January, in the
47th year of our reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

WILMOT.

[VANDERCOM, Solicitor.]

